

On the Diagnosis of disease, and the importance of distinguishing a state of Excitement in the circulation, from one of Inflammation.
By Walter Somerville of Virginia.

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but to make up

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On the Diagnosis of disease, and the importance of
distinguishing a state of Excitement in the circu-
lation, from one of Inflammation.

In reviewing the multifarious, extensive, and interesting
subjects, relative to the science of Medicine, we cannot
fail to be convinced, of the great importance of them
all, and of the impious attention, which they de-
mand of us. Indeed so intimately connected to each
other, are the different branches of our science, that
a perfect knowledge of the one, is unattainable, without
some previous acquaintance with the others. Like the
constellations of the celestial world, they mutually
tend to enlighten and support each other, by the
relation which they equally diffuse.

Among the many subjects embraced within the circle
of our science, there is not one in the whole catalogue,
which more strongly demands our attention, or upon
which, our success in the treatment of disease more
depends, than that of Diagnosis, or the symptoms by

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which we distinguish disease. It is here, that an acquaintance with the different branches of our profession is called into requisition, here the whole of our knowledge must be concentrated, our judgment and discrimination exerted, and it is here, more than in the exercise of any other part of our profession, that we are caused to lament the imperfection of our art. In proportion therefore to the difficulty and importance of the subject should be our exertion to render it familiar. It is necessary in the present inquiry, to review the different means to which we resort for distinguishing disease.

For the attainment of this end, an acquaintance with the symptoms of particular diseases, will intuitively strike us, as being one of the primary and most essential requisites; and to become acquainted with the symptoms of disease it will be necessary in the first place, to study them as they have been detailed by the most respectable writers.

Among the many celebrated authors, distinguished

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for the accuracy by which they have detailed the symptoms of disease, and pointed out their pathognomonic characteristics, the illustrious and immortal author undoubtedly deserves the superiority. To a mind by nature vigorous and comprehensive, we unit a sound judgment and discrimination, together with remarkable powers of observation and reflection. Talents such as these, are seldom to be met with, and very rarely concentrated in the same individual. Guided by the symptoms which he has laid down, and assisted by our own observations, we will generally succeed in this important end; but cases sometimes occur which baffle the most experienced and judicious.

Next to an acquaintance with the symptoms of disease, an accurate knowledge of Anatomy is of the greatest importance, in forming an accurate diagnosis. By its assistance, we are enabled to detect and comprehend the anomalous forms of disease.

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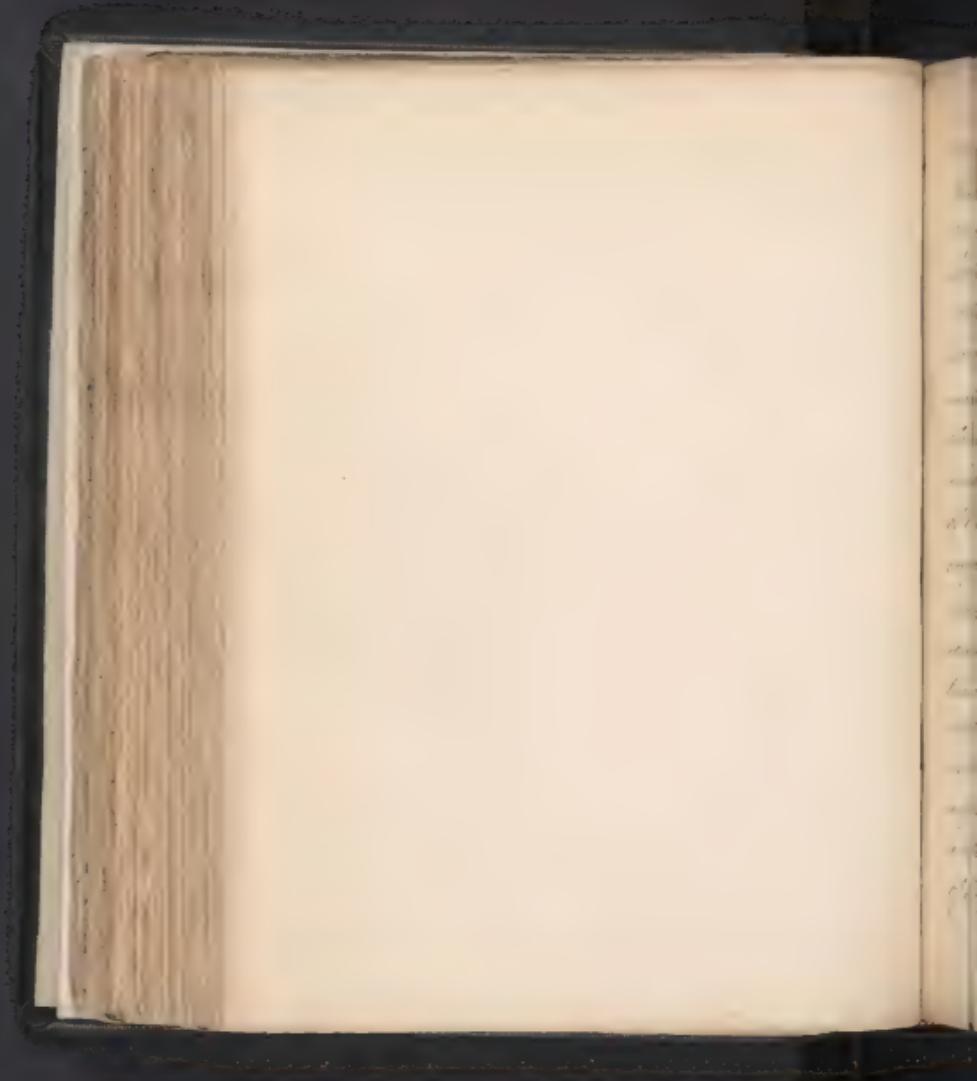
action which so frequently present themselves. By it, we can comprehend, why different organs and parts of the animal machine, in some cases are through the medium of sympathy more affected than those in which the disease is primarily seated. By its assistance we can readily conceive in what manner enlargements of the pancreas, produce a constipation of the bowels, vomiting, and great uneasiness, immediately after taking food, in consequence of its pressure on the duodenum. Deprived of its aid, we should be unable to account for those cerebral affections many of which have their origin in the stomach, but through the influence of the nerves extending their power to the brain. Indeed without an acquaintance with the structure and formation of the human system, the science of Medicine would be not only a useless but a dangerous art, involved in obscurity and empiricism.

Among the methods to which resort for distin-

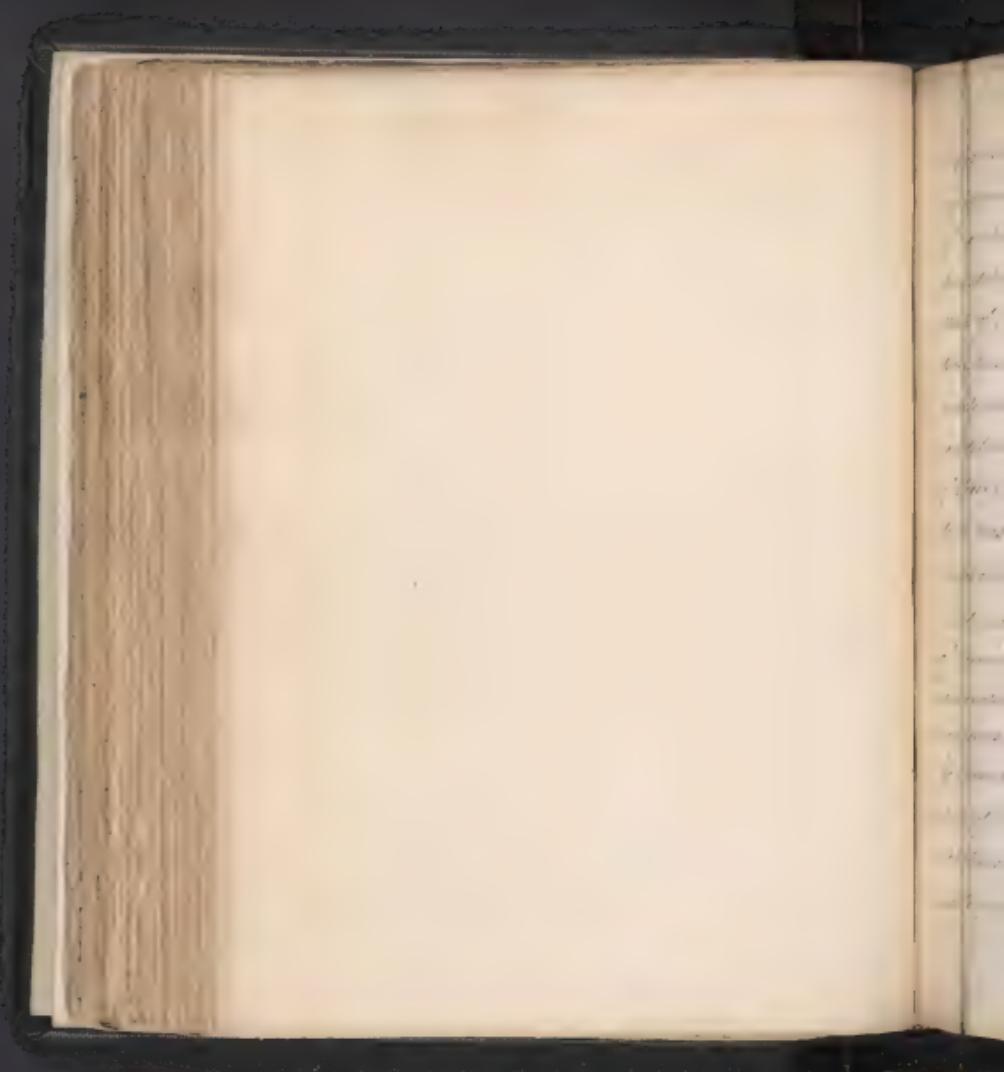
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comes down the side of the bank and then it
comes down to the water below the
Pineapple and the rest of the valley immediately
comes into the water and it flows out into the
valley below it. The other, in addition
to these means, is to have a series of the
small excavations - the last, is the lowest, and it is the same
as the one above it, only it is smaller
and deeper and it is intended to have all these
in safety, and success. The distance 300 feet.

There are three small excavations and one large one
and for distinction's sake, and I need not
mention that names were given to them, the
name of the first is the Pineapple, and while there
have been recently made the excavations for which were
designed, the work is not yet completed
and the last, is the lowest, and it is the same
as the one above it, only it is smaller
and deeper and it is intended to have all these

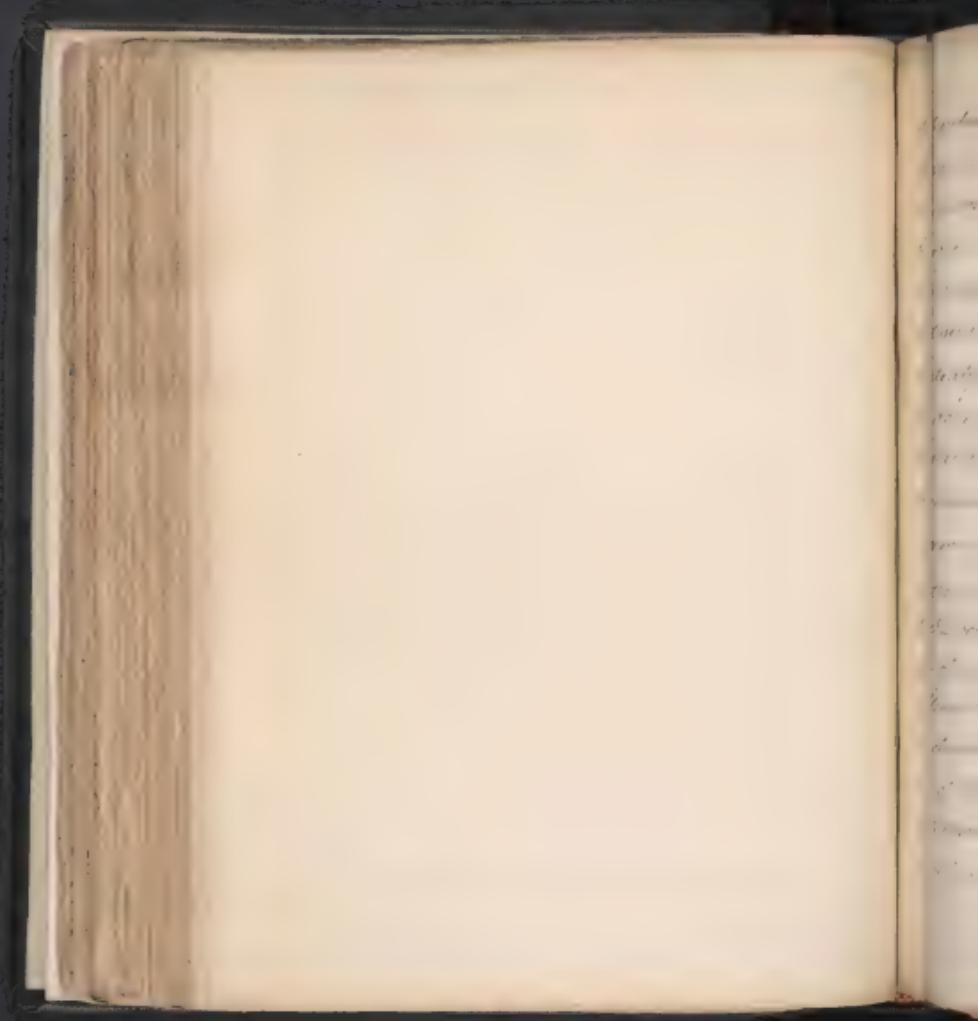


and the 20th of May we were in
the fort and the 21st we started on a
walk of 6 miles to a small town
of 500 inhabitants. We were met with a warm



and the author of the book in question
is not to be found in the library of
the Royal Society in London, or in any
of the principal libraries in England, or
indeed in Europe. The author is a
native of France, and has resided in
London for many years, and is now
a citizen of France. The author is
a man of great learning and
experience, and it is evident that he
is well informed in the subject in question.
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1816. Edinburgh was convened, a committee made up of men
and women, who had been engaged in the movement, were sent to the
West African Slave Coast to see what could be done. The
Committee, however, did not remain long, as they found
the local slaves system as bad as that of the
Africans. It was decided, that the Committee
should remain, and that they should be
helped by the rest of the London Society, to continue
their work, and that their money should be
used to help other work, and that it should be done
in a more effective manner. The motion being passed,
that the Committee should be given a grant of £1000, and that an
agent should be sent to the Slave Coast, and
that a strict examination of the actions of the Slave
Coast should be made, to see if there was any
improvement in the state of the slaves.
The Committee, however, did not remain long, as they
found the local slaves system as bad as that of the

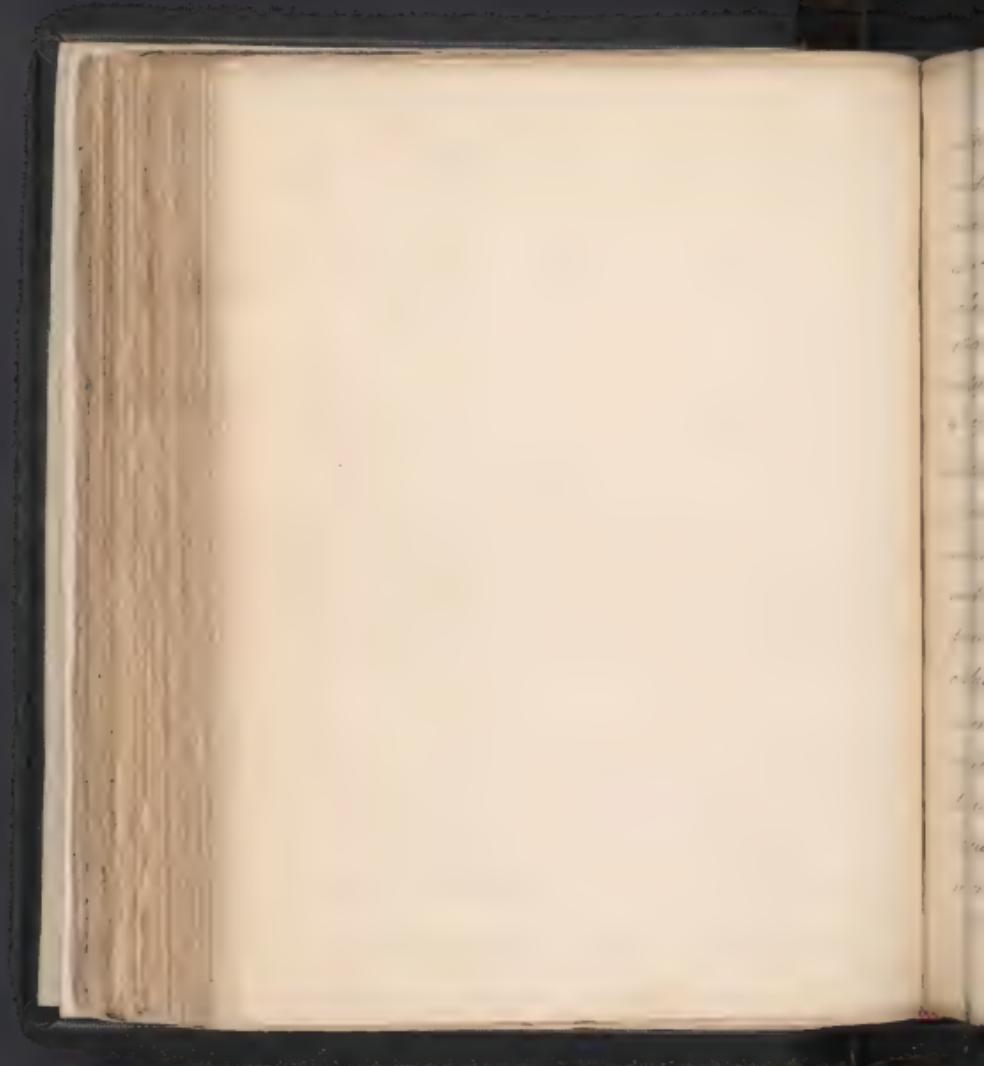




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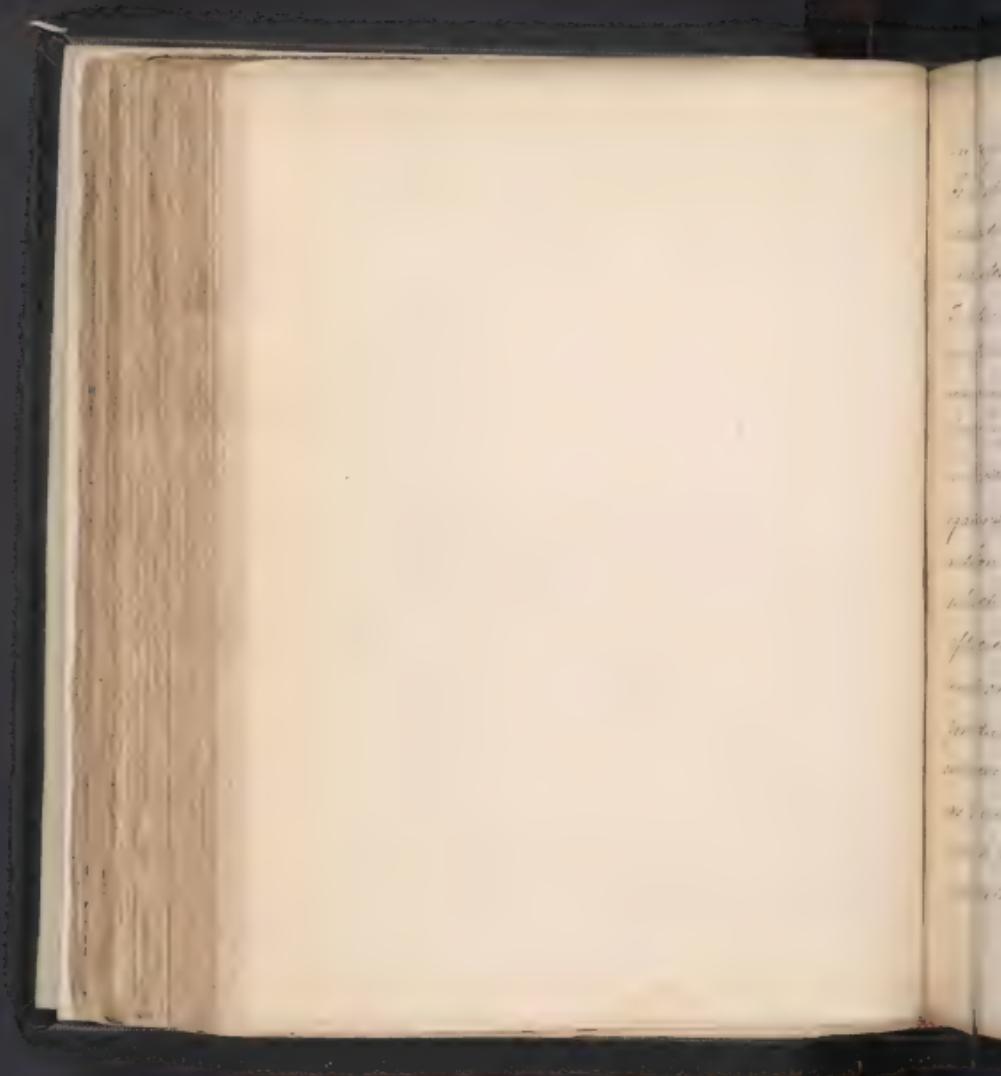
to be upon the established state of the law of
the land to cause other local authorities
to do so. However, it is a very difficult and
dangerous task to harmonize such
local authorities. The law of the land is
not that of the colonies.

We think it probable that the law is not amended
so as to prohibit the use of salines in the existing
several local authorities in view of the course
of the past. This doctrine is supported by reason
of the fact that the majority of of local
authorities have not been amended
so as to prohibit the use of salines. It is
true that the law of the land is not
so as to prohibit the use of salines
in the existing local authorities
but it is not so as to prohibit the
use of salines in view of the past.



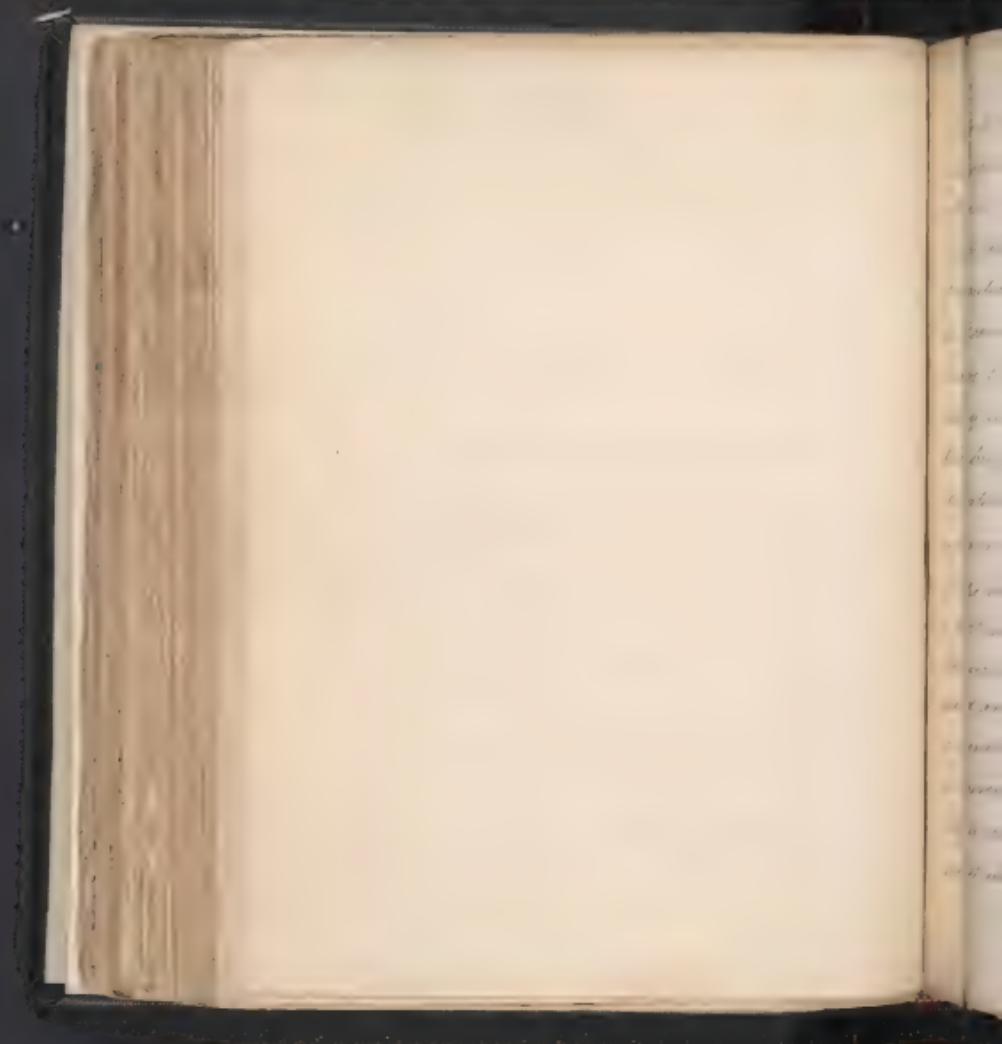
in 1776, & that they were to be submitted
to a popular vote, and to be abrogated
when the general assembly so should, when
a majority between the colonies in the majority of
the states were to be unanimous, and the out-
standing colonies & states were to be in the
majority. Considering this is a rule to govern
in the creation of a nation, attention attracted to this
rule, & to the 3. & 4. articles of confederation.

The 3. & 4. articles, I say, by the way
are now out of date to the 13. states
which are now united. Virginia is the
earliest a member as to the 3. & 4. articles of
confederation, while many of the other states, for the same
reason, are now the members, & others of the
union, & in the article of the first and se-
cond, and concerning the property of members
and that in insolvency, which is, & which the
second application of use is a nation, & to a



in, & he abhored that most execrable form of government
that has yet been invented, & that is, a government
over us. We then, the 25th, resolved to
detest it, the 27th, we resolved to

abolish it, & that the 28th, we resolved to
make & explain our views & all the just
& true. We next resolved that we would
not be disengaged from the other colonies
by acceding to the existing confederacy
unless the 1st of Decr. 1776, & the resolution
about that was on the 2nd, & mentioned the most
affectionate regards to the other colonies. & that the
2d resolution to set up a new & independent
federation throughout, & that we had then done
so, was thought of & resolved & passed, & was
so far ratified by the other colonies, that all the colonies
& the other colonies, & the system of government
which we have established, & which is



up to which we have frequently alluded. Another diagnostic by which we may judge of the presence or absence of inflammation is the appearance of the blood drawn. These appearances however, are so familiar to us all, that it will be unnecessary to describe them minutely, particularly as they have been so accurately detailed, by almost every writer on inflammation. The existence of the buffy coat although not an infallible indication of inflammation, yet it is an evidence upon which we can safely rely. There is one state of the pulse usually present in inflammation, which will serve as an important distinction between inflammation and excitement. It is the hard and chorded state of the pulse, which though generally attendant upon inflammation seldom or never exists in excitement.

By a review of the different symptoms of inflammation we shall find, that next to the pulse, the existence

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of local pain constitutes one of the most certain diagnostics between inflammation and excitation. We have now we believe mentioned the most important means by which we can distinguish those different states of the circulation, and we think that by calling to our aid all those different resources, viz the state of the pulse, the existence or absence of local pain, the appearances of the blood dracor. &c that this important distinction may be formed. But in this case as well as in forming a distinction between diseases generally, let us ever bear in mind, the importance of ascertaining with some degree of certainty the nature of the case before us, let us ever remember, that it would be better to extract the case to the *Dis Medicatrix Materis*, than resort to injurious and doubtful measures; and let this maxim be ever present with us *Unicus remedium per nullum*.

